

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office communication dated September 22, 2006.

Summary

Claims 1 and 8 are currently amended. No new matter was added as a result of these amendments.

Claims 4 – 7 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 – 10 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerpheide et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,680,731) in view of Taylor et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0025679).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a reverse surface of the flexible substrate on which the X and Y electrodes are not formed is bonded along a rear surface of a curved portion of an insulating support plate.

Gerpheide et al. fail to disclose or suggest a reverse surface of the flexible substrate on which the X and Y electrodes are not formed is bonded along a rear surface of a curved portion of an insulating support plate. Gerpheide et al. teach a contrary arrangement. Gerpheide et al. teach adhering the “touchpad sensing electrodes on a plastic sheet” to a planar section of the PC board (column 4, lines 50 – 52; figure 8). Gerpheide teach that the touchpad sensor electrodes are disposed on the plastic sheets and fail to teach an area on the plastic sheets without the sensor electrodes (column 3, line 55 through column 4, line 16). Gerpheide et al. also fail to teach a curved portion of an insulating support plate. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Taylor et al. also fail to disclose or suggest a reverse surface of the flexible substrate on which the X and Y electrodes are not formed is bonded along a rear surface of a curved portion of an insulating support plate. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Dependent claims 2 – 3 depend from allowable claim 1, so are allowable for at least this reason.

Independent Claim 8 recites features that are similar to allowable features of claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Claim 8 is allowable over the cited references. Further limitations of claim 8 are allowable over the cited references.

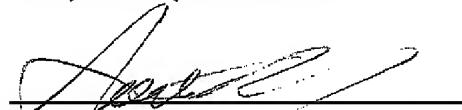
Dependent Claims 9 – 10 depend from an allowable base claim and are allowable for at least this reason.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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